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The Breath in the Winds and Other Sermons.

By Frederick F. Shannon. New York: Revell, 1918. Pp. 173. \$1.00.

Welcome to another volume of sermons by Dr. Shannon of the Reformed Church-on-the-Heights in Brooklyn. They are full of that distinct quality which we have learned to associate with Dr. Shannon. He has keen and accurate spiritual vision; he expresses his thought in beautiful, forceful English; he has a message for the daily life of men and women. Here are ten sermons, different in character, covering varied aspects of the gospel. The third sermon, "Christ's Mission," is especially forceful and clear. The following is an example of Dr. Shannon's vivid methods:

"When German diggers found a new poem of Sappho in the dust heaps of Oxyrhynchus, an English poetry lover confessed that he was made to leap out of bed for joy. Think of it—a lyric of Sappho raised from the dust! The marvel is that the Lesbian's buried words did not take root and blossom into singing flowers. Now Paul says: 'We are God's poems.' Just as Sappho's golden fragments are an expression of her mind, so are we expressions of God's mind. But we are down in the dust, buried in the Oxyrhynchus of flesh, entombed by sinful habits. Alas! we are poems that have lost their rhythm—we do not go singingly. Who can give us back our song? Who can lift us out of the dust heaps and restore us to our place in the poetry of the universe? Ah, there is but One—no other, now and forevermore—who can accomplish this task. 'For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.'"

Let no preacher attempt, however, to imitate Dr. Shannon. Read him for suggestion and stimulus; then work out your own method and be forever yourself. But read Dr. Shannon.

The Interpreter. By Washington Gladden.

Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1918. Pp. ix+268. \$1.50.

Here are fifteen sermons, preached during the latter part of the fruitful ministry of the late pastor of the First Congregational Church in Columbus, if we may judge by the frequent references to national conditions reflected on the pages. There are two controlling themes in the sermons: the Christian interpretation of the individual spirit and the quickening call to the people to realize the social imperatives of the gospel. These, we surmise, were always the mainsprings of Dr. Gladden's ministry in the pulpit. Compared with the sermons of Brooks and Bushnell, these are not great discourses. We hardly think that their author's permanent reputation will be enhanced by them. They are clear in statement; they touch real life; they ought to help anyone to be a braver man and a better Christian. That is probably

the real measure of effective preaching. Such sermons as these could have been the product only of such a soul as Dr. Gladden; it is the preacher who makes the sermon great.

Higher Living. By Smith Baker. Boston:

Sherman, French & Co., 1917. Pp. x+404. \$1.75.

The author of this sensible book is a physician who has recorded his reflections upon the meaning of life and pleads for wise and noble use of all the powers of one's being in the high task of living well. He runs through the great aspects of human experience, from birth to death, in thirty concise chapters, full of suggestions that are evidently based upon long experience as a friend and family doctor. There is no foolish sentimentalism in the book; the men and women about whom Dr. Baker talks are human beings like the rest of us; and the life that he describes is something that can be realized while we are studying geometry, washing dishes, or plowing corn. One feels after reading it that life is a fine affair and that there could be nothing better given the average soul as a task than just to live it on the high plane of right reason and deep feeling and spiritual alertness that Dr. Baker describes in such winsome fashion.

Bugle Rhymes from France. By Paul Myron.

Chicago: Mid-Nation Publishers, 1918. Pp. 138. \$1.00.

A sheaf of poems and a play, inspired by love for France and America, with occasional pieces of fine feeling and lyric command emerging from a waste of mediocrity. Occasionally a bit is so good that it is too bad that the most is so poor.

Guiding Boys over Fool Hill. By A. H.

McKinney. New York: Revell, 1918. Pp. 228. \$1.25.

The writer has a well-known and deserved reputation as an authority on the problems of youth. This book starts with a title that arrests immediate attention. Everyone knows that there is such a hill, and not all of us are at all sure that we are wholly over the top yet. There are ten chapters in the discussion devoted to such practical matters as Self-Consciousness, Day-Dreaming, Doubt, Conscience, and Misunderstanding. The larger part of the material is in the form of illustrations; it would have been better if the signs of the scissors and paste-pot had not been so apparent (for example, pp. 146, 148). One reads some of the incidents with a little choke in his throat at the end; they are on the whole full of reality and reflect the boy as he is. No essential contribution is